134. Necessity for some inter-state arrangements regarding the transmission of articles through the Anchal and Postal departments.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappillay, B. A., (*Kottayam*)brought forward this subject.

Reply.—This is a political matter and as such the subject is disallowed.

135. Extension of Railway in Travancore.

Mr. V. Sankaranarayana Iyer, B. A., B. L., (*Agastisvaram*) remarked that this was one of the subjects brought up at the last session of the Assembly and Government promised to consider the same. Some action had since been taken by way of making arrangements for counting the number of passengers along the South Travancore main-road and thus finding out how far the scheme would be a success. He prayed for the early extension of the railway to South Travancore as the people suffered much from its absence.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (*Tovala*), *Mr. Ponnaiya Nadar of Eraniel,* (*Nominated*), *Mr. Paul Daniel M. A., L. T.,* (*Native Christian Association, Nagercoil*), *and Mr. M. Madhavan Tampi* (*Kalkulam*) also spoke in support of Mr. Sankaranarayana Iyer's views.

Mr. M. D. Daniel, B. A., (*T. I. C., Nagercoil*) pointed out that a line through Trivandrum connecting Quilon with Nagercoil was absolutely necessary. The Shencottah-Quilon Railway was a white elephant for the State, but the loss incurred by Government on that account could be easily recouped by the construction of the proposed line. As for funds, the member suggested that it was not difficult to obtain loans at three or four per cent. interest on good guarantee from the people themselves, especially as they had now lost faith in the investment of their money in foreign banks.

Mr. M. Bhuthalingam Pillai (*Eraniel*) *and Mr. K. Kathir Pillai,* (*Alangad*) suggested that the requisite funds for the opening of railways might be taken from the wealthy Devaswoms of the State.

Mr. Ousep Kunjavirah Tharakan (*Vaikam*) *Mr. K. G. Raghava Menon* (*Changanachery*) *and Mr. Padmanabhan Parameswaran and Mr. Narayanan Velayudhan* (*Pathanapuram*) prayed for the extension of the Shoranur-Cochin Railway from Alwaye to Quilon and thence to the southern extremity of the State.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mapillay, B. A., (*Kottayam*) in supporting the views of the previous speakers observed that in British India the extension of the railway was pushed on with expedition and vigour, and it would not do for Travancore alone to lag behind.

Reply.—The suggestions brought forward at the Assembly might be grouped under three classes, *viz.*, (1) those which can be adopted, (2) those which cannot be and (3) those in which it would be difficult to give a definite and immediate reply. As regards the first two classes, I have striven to state my replies in unambiguous terms, but in respect of the last class under which, I must say, the present subject comes, Government can only state that the matter will receive consideration. This should be taken only as an assurance on their part to pay due attention to the arguments and representations put forward by the members and to do what could be done after considering the question in all its aspects, and not construed as a promise, as seems to be the impression in the minds of some of the members, entitling any one to criticise Government when no action immediately follows, as though there had been a breach of the promise. Coming to the actual question now brought forward, there are divergent opinions among men qualified to speak on the subject about the desirability of connecting Quilon and Trivandrum by a railway. The Shencottah-Quilon line has had a very depressing effect on the finances, and the loss by way of guaranteed interest has so far amounted to two and a quarter lakhs of rupees. It is not possible to know when our exchequer will regain its original condition and in the circumstances the best course seems to be to wait and see whether the existing line will pay. In the present financial position of the State, I fear it will not be possible for some years to come to take up any new scheme of the kind now proposed, either in the south or in the north.

136. Introduction of Motor Service.

Mr. S. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L., (*T. I. C., Alleppey*) said that it was desirable not only to open new lines of railway, but also to introduce motor service wherever convenient.

Reply.—Motor service might be left to private enterprise.

137. Extension of Steam-Launch Service.

Mr. Kumara Menon (*T. I. C., Kottayam*) represented that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly